Range Cattle REC Pasture Weed Field Day

Are you battling tropical soda apple or climbing fern? Do you have questions concerning forage tolerance to herbicides? How do you remove vaseygrass and bahiagrass from bermudagrass or stargrass pastures? Is there anything new for smutgrass? What herbicides are available for pasture weed control? What is that weed?

These are all questions we ask. Every year we are challenged with new questions, problems, and sometimes, new weeds. It is our goal to help you find an economical approach to weed control in your pastures.

Controlling weeds can be a problem, and optimum weed control will depend on the particular weed species, the environment, weed age and size, as well as time of year. We hope to share some information concerning pasture weed control at this field day.

The program will begin at 8:30am on Thursday, October 11th at the Range Cattle REC in Ona. A registration fee of $30 will be collected onsite if you have not pre-registered. The program will conclude at approximately 1:30pm following lunch.

CEU and CCA credits will be available for those wishing to acquire such credits. For more information you may contact Toni or Brent, 863-735-1314.

Quail and Dove Short Course

The 3rd Annual Quail and Dove Short Course will take place Friday, October 19, 2007 at the Turner Civic Center in Arcadia from 7:30am until 5:00pm. The program is designed to educate landowners, hunters, managers and conservationist the ecology and management of quail and dove in Florida.

Topics discussed in the course will cover bobwhite basics, identifying native quail plants, food plots and supplemental feeding, BMP’s for pen raised quail, dove facts, dove fields, dove harvest and hunting, as well as a visit to Longino Ranch. Participants will visit with ranch managers and speakers about interaction of cows and quail, landscapes for quail, predator management, as well as a food plot demonstration.

Registration costs are $50 if received by October 5th and $75 if received after October 5th. Registration fees will cover program materials and lunch. For more information you can contact Christa, 722-4524.
**Manatee County Farm City Week**

Manatee County Farm City Week will be held November 8th thru November 17, 2007. The theme for the 2007 Farm City Week will be “50 Years of Farm City Week”. The committee has been underway making arrangements to highlight the agricultural industry here in Manatee County.

Festivities will begin with Ag-Venture to teach the area 3rd grade students about agriculture and where their food comes from. Each student will have the opportunity to rotate thru six different agricultural experiences to see how agriculture impacts their everyday life. For more information on Ag-Venture contact Heather Zimmerman, 722-4524.

The Manatee River Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding a speech contest for all youth in 6th—12th grades. The topic of the speech is “What is the Future of Florida’s Renewable Energy”. Each speech should be between 6-8 minutes in length. Students will compete for the $100 top prize and a chance to compete in the area and state competitions. Contestants must register by November 1st. For more information of the Speech Contest contact Gail Somodi, 907-0011.

On Thursday, November 15th the Hall of Fame Luncheon will be held at the Manatee County Agricultural Museum. The Manatee County Hall of Fame inductee will be honored at this luncheon.

On Friday, November 16th Manatee County Residents have the opportunity to view parts of the agricultural industry in the county. The tours will begin at 8:00am and 9:00am from the Manatee County Fair Grounds. The first stop on the tour will be at the Harllee Barn at the Manatee County Fairgrounds. Following a discussion of the history of the barn participants will then travel to the Sheriff’s Inmate Farm at the Manatee County Jail. While there participants will have the opportunity to tour the Horticulture Greenhouses, Hydroponically grown barley for cattle, the tilapia fish farm, vegetable gardens, sewing rooms, grits mill, wood shop and diesel shop all operated by inmates. Participants will then travel to SMR Farms on Lorraine Road to learn about SMR’s Cattle Operation. The tour of the cattle operation will be conducted by Jason McKendree. Following lunch they will then travel to Watercress Farm where they produce watercress and many other vegetables which are grown here in Florida and shipped for use in England daily. After the tour of Watercress participants will then return to the Fairgrounds. For more information on the Farm Tour contact Linda Means, 722-4524.

To conclude Farm City Week we will hold the 4th Annual Farm City Week Beef Workshop and Prospect Show. The Workshop and Prospect Show is open to all Manatee County 4-H and FFA members who are participating in the Market Steer or Beef Breeding projects. The workshop will begin at 8:45am on Saturday, November 17th with a session on Beef Cattle Reproduction presented by Lockie Gary, Hardee County Livestock Extension Agent and County Extension Director. We will then move into our rotational hands-on workshops on cattle grooming presented by Hope Freeman, advanced and beginner showmanship workshops presented by Craig Wolfe and Pat Hogue, Okeechobee County Livestock Extension Agent, and proper show preparation and knot tying presented by Laura Wolfe. The final station will be a beef cattle reproduction skill-a-thon station for youth to test their reproduction knowledge. Following the workshop youth will be treated to a lunch sponsored by the Manatee County Cattlemen’s Association and youth will then have the opportunity to prepare their animals for the prospect show. **Youth must participate in the workshop to be eligible for the show.**

Entry fees for the show are $15 per animal entry and $10 for showmanship class participation. There is not a charge for youth wishing to participate in the workshop only. We are currently seeking sponsors to offset the cost of the workshop and prospect show. If you are interested in sponsoring the event or for further information contact Christa Carlson, 722-4524.
FLORIDA STATE FAIR YOUTH LIVESTOCK ETHICS AND ANIMAL CARE WORKSHOP

Any youth who plans to show any animal at the Florida State Fair and who participated in the fair last year must participate in a Livestock Ethics and Animal Care Workshop if they did not do so last year. If they did not show at the state fair last year they must attend the workshop to participate in the 2009 Florida State Fair. There are currently seven workshops advertised on the Florida State Fair Livestock website. They are:

October 6th
9am-12noon at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center

October 13
1pm—4pm Volusia County Fairgrounds

October 20
7:30am—12 noon Turner Technical High School

BEEF MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

October
• Check mineral feeder.
• Check for external parasites, especially lice, and treat if needed.
• Check for spittlebugs and treat, if needed.
• Watch condition of cow herd; maintain adequate nutrition.
• Isolate any additions to the herd for 30 to 60 days and observe for signs of disease; retest for brucellosis and leptospirosis.
• Be sure you have adequate handling facilities, and they are in good working order.
• If you are raising bulls for the commercial market, October thru December is the main bull-buying season for cattlemen in south Florida. Now is the time to have your promotion program fully activated.

November
• Have soils tested.
• Plant cool season legumes.
• Plant small grain pastures.
• Observe cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
• Use mineral with high level of magnesium if grass tetany has been a problem in the past.
• Check for external parasites and treat if needed.
• Maintain adequate nutrient level for cow herd.
• Calve in well-drained pastures.
• Survey pastures for poisonous plants.
• Start summarizing your annual records, production and financial-then you have time to make adjustments for tax purposes.
• Re-evaluate winter feeding program and feed supplies.
• Get breeding soundness exams on bull battery so you have time to find replacements if some fail.
• Implement bull conditioning program.
• Review plans and arrangements for the upcoming breeding season.
• Check progress of developing replacement heifers.

December
• Begin grazing small grain pastures (if ready).
• Check mineral feeder.
• Check for external parasites and treat if needed.
• Deworm cows and heifers prior to winter feeding season.
• Observe regularly for calving difficulties.
• Rotate calving pastures to prevent diseases.
• Watch for scours in calves.
• Investigate health of bulls before you buy.
• Have dead animals posted by a veterinarian or diagnostic laboratory.
• Complete review of management plan and update for next year. Check replacement heifers to be sure they will be ready to breed 3 - 4 weeks prior to the main herd.

More information may be found at http://floridastatefair.com/pdffiles/live-ethics.pdf.
SunBelt Ag Expo

The 2007 Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, North America’s Premier Farm Show, will be held October 16-18 in Moultrie, GA. The mission is “to produce the premier farm show in the world, one that is conducive to trade and emphasizes information, education and implementation of the latest agricultural technology, research and equipment.” This is a great opportunity to see many exhibits and demonstrations in one location for all aspects of agriculture. The show is open 8:30am – 5:00pm Tuesday and Wednesday and 8:30am – 4:00pm on Thursday. The cost is $7 per person. The show site is composed of 100 acres of exhibit space and a 600 acre working farm. This year they are expecting over 1200 exhibitors to participate. For further information visit their website at www.sunbeltexpo.com or call 229-985-1968.

Christa L. Carlson
Extension Agent II, Livestock